

PCSGA



PACIFIC COAST SHELLFISH GROWERS ASSOCIATION

LONGLINES

Volume 17 No. 4
Fall 2014

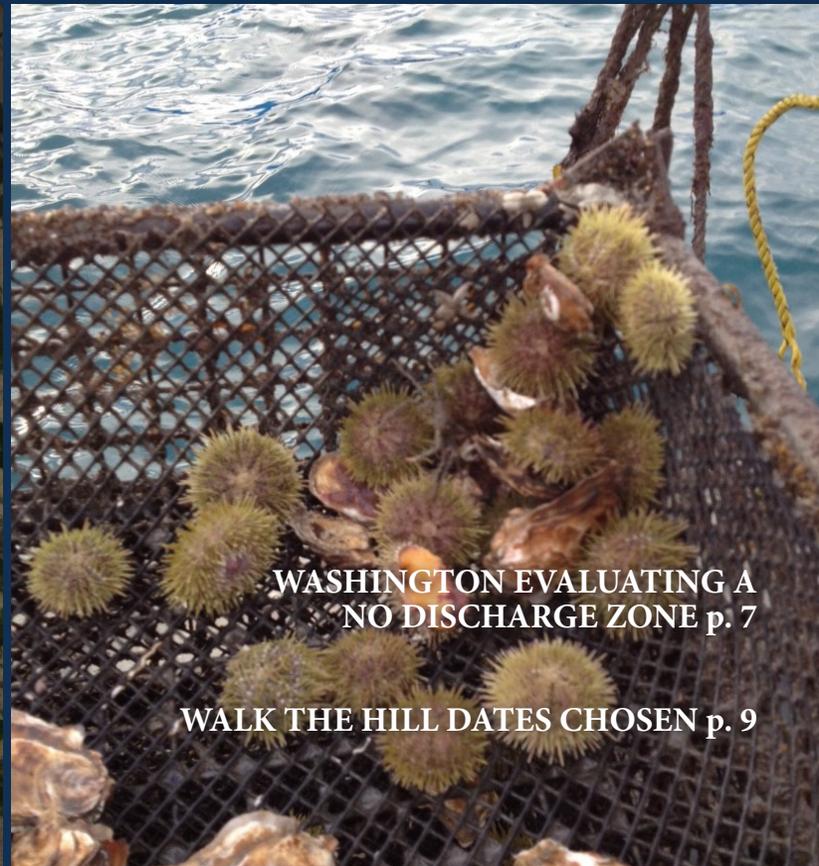
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PCSGA



The PCSGA works on behalf of its members on a broad spectrum of issues, including environmental protection, shellfish safety, regulations, technology, and marketing.

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Cover Photo:
The 2014 Grand Prize
Winners of the Ecosystem
Services Photo Contest
See details on page 3.

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What the Tide Brought In

Notes from the Director



PCSGA's 2014 Princess of Tides, Sue Shotwell of Nisqually Indian Tribe.

to her job, but also the Nisqually people and their traditions. She is an active PCSGA board member who consistently is the first to act whenever a request is made. She demonstrates support for the industry through her generosity, time, and knowledge. Most times you'll find Sue sporting a pair of Xtratuf boots, which makes sense since there are few footwear options that can support Sue's boundless energy, sheer strength and youthful enthusiasm.

Sue consistently goes above and beyond in order to support the shellfish industry. Her strong desire to learn and then patiently teach others in the industry is incomparable.

On numerous occasions, Sue has traveled thousands of miles, at her own expense, to visit hatcheries and farms to teach folks proper techniques for algae production and care. She arrives ready with tools and materials in hand, generously giving her time to answer every last question and ponder solutions to every problem presented.

Sue is not only interested in the biology behind producing great shellfish, she is also extremely committed to preserving the history from which future generations of shellfish growers will learn. She has been a strong supporter of both the Willapa Bay Docs and the Jerry Yamashita film project and is extremely passionate about ALL things Willapa.

When you talk to Sue about her youth, a sparkle appears in her eye. She beams with pride about growing up in a shellfish family in Willapa Bay, which was both her classroom and her playground. Sue shares stories of collecting and studying samples of the Bay. She also remembers eavesdropping when "fathers" of the industry engaged in heated discussions around her dining table. Most of her stories make their way back to her family, especially to her father, Arnold, who would go out of his way to learn what he could, teach others and preserve the history of the industry.

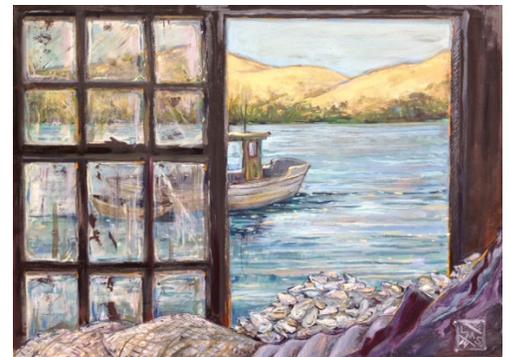
It seems in this case that the pearl didn't land too far from the oyster. Thank you Sue for all you do to support the shellfish industry. You are the Queen of Algae and our 2014 Princess of Tides.

-Margaret Barrette

Fall. Love it or hate it. End of summer, last of the good daylight tides, the return to school and preparations for the PCSGA Annual Conference.

Despite the chaos that fall brings, there is at least one bright spot. Throughout the year, I consider all who have made significant contributions to the industry and in September I determine whom to name as the Prince/Princess of Tides at the Annual Conference. This year I'm delighted to honor Sue Shotwell.

Sue currently manages the Nisqually Indian Tribe's 122 acre shellfish farm. She is dedicated not just



"The Oyster Shack," an original painting by Laurie Sawyer, depicts oyster farming on Tomales Bay. The image will be used to honor PCSGA's Princes and Princesses of Tides for the next few years.

Grand Prize Winner Selected for Ecosystem Services Photo Contest

Congratulations to the Grand Prize Winners of the 2014 Ecosystem Services Photo Contest! The winning photos, pictured on the front cover of this newsletter, were chosen by PCSGA members at the Annual General Meeting on September 22nd. Members considered both composition and photo descriptions as they cast their votes.



Grand Prize, \$400: Linda Schaffel - Olympia, WA
Caption: This photo depicts habitat and protection provided by mussel rafts. The diverse layers of organisms throughout the rafts are incredible. This picture was taken from above the surface looking into the water.



Second Place, \$250: Mat Buldis - Nisqually Reach, WA
Caption: Geoduck tube serves as a shrimp refuge. The tiny reflections are the eyes of hundreds of shrimp.



Third Place, \$150: Weatherly Bates - Homer, AK
Caption: Oyster cages are great urchin habitat and the grazing urchins help keep our cages and oysters clean.

You could win, too! See rules and entry information at www.pcsga.org.

Ecosystem Services Photo Contest Winners



July's winning submission by Sue Shotwell of Olympia, WA. Every day during low tide, pairs of Great Blue Herons travel from a rookery at the head of Henderson Inlet to gather on the Nisqually Indian Tribe oyster farm. Whether the oysters are grown on the ground or suspended, the habitat they provide for smaller invertebrates draws forage fish who directly benefit from the abundant food source.



August's winning submission by Nicole Gilmore of Bellingham, WA shows a colony of breadcrumb sponges using clam nets for habitat.

Pearls from the Prez

The summer has flashed by as we have worked hard expanding our operations at Rock Point Oyster. We have acquired several new farms, tripled employment, and killed a few million baby oysters during the inauguration of the new upweller/flupsy system. At least Mother Nature cooperated and allowed a bumper crop of natural oyster spat in Dabob Bay. There has been a steep learning curve along with staff issues resulting in more stress than I normally care to experience. I guess that's all part of being a shellfish farmer.

The growing pains continue as we expand our infrastructure to keep up with more ground and more product moving through processing. The crew is working hard installing a new single oyster grow-out facility during some of the last good daylight tides of the year. I

kind of feel like I'm driving a hot sports car down a winding gravel road with a lot of chuck holes. Look out, here we come!

As we approach the 2014 election season, many fundraising events are being planned for October. We have some strong political allies in the Legislature and it is critical that we provide them support and help them stay in office. Several of the races are tight and your personal and/or financial support is very important. Members of the PCSGA Governmental Affairs Committee will be making calls to rally support and I ask for your cooperation.

-Dave Steele
President, PCSGA

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Welcome to Our New Members

Troutlodge Jamestown Point Whitney Venture

By John Dentler



Troutlodge Jamestown Point Whitney

Department of Fisheries Shellfish Laboratory at Point Whitney (PW) located on Dabob Bay on Hood Canal near Brinnon. That site is about eight acres comprising a number of buildings, a laboratory, two lagoons, intake pipes, pumps, and offices.

The site was originally a Washington Department of Fisheries laboratory for research on shellfish culture and husbandry, and

Troutlodge Sablefish LLC has joined the Jamestown Tribe and Native Trust Inc in a partnership (Troutlodge Jamestown Point Whitney Venture) to produce shellfish seed for the shellfish grow out industry. They lease the former Washington

Department of Fisheries Shellfish Laboratory at Point Whitney (PW) located on Dabob Bay on Hood Canal near Brinnon. That site is about eight acres comprising a number of buildings, a laboratory, two lagoons, intake pipes, pumps, and offices. The site was originally a Washington Department of Fisheries laboratory for research on shellfish culture and husbandry, and dates back to the early 1900s. Perhaps you have heard the phrase from the 1909 edition of the Blaine Journal: “The oysters on the Jersey’s Coast have justly won a name. But we grow better flavored ones yes sir right here in Blaine.” I started farming the bay in the mid-1980s along with my then business partner Geoff Menzies, until the bay was closed in 1994 as a result of declining water quality. That’s when attention switched to a Herculean effort of tackling the water quality issues. Today they have been mostly solved and allow us to farm Drayton Golds once again. That is a whole other story covering twenty years of work and involving numerous folks, agencies, governments, and shellfish districts; all responding to the steady leadership and dedication of Geoff Menzies and the Puget Sound Restoration Fund.

later used to produce shellfish seed. In 2012, WDFW moved its Point Whitney staff to Port Townsend and asked Troutlodge to enter into a long term lease for the entire site. The PW site clearly had much of the infrastructure, such as lagoons, a FLUPSY, and other equipment to restart shellfish culture operations.

John Dentler of Troutlodge is the co-managing partner along with Kurt Grinnell of Native Trust and the Jamestown Tribe. Mr. Dentler noted that, “We have been fortunate to find a great partner in Kurt Grinnell and the Jamestown Tribe. We found Brian Williamson who is very seasoned with shellfish to take care of day-to-day matters and a couple of young guys (Matt Henderson and Brian Iverson) who are enthusiastic learners and workers. In addition, Troutlodge owners, Ken Gohrick and Jim Parsons have been instrumental in getting the shellfish systems at PW back up and running. Several in the shellfish industry like Ted Kuiper, Taylor Shellfish, WDFW employees and others, have given us a helping hand and/or advice. We have made a lot of progress in the past year and we look forward to providing seed and working with the shellfish industry.”

Drayton Harbor Oyster Company

By Steve Seymour



Steve Seymour of Drayton Harbor Oyster Company

My son, grandson and I are following a long tradition of oyster farming in the waters of Drayton Harbor which

dates back to the early 1900s. Perhaps you have heard the phrase from the 1909 edition of the Blaine Journal: “The oysters on the Jersey’s Coast have justly won a name. But we grow better flavored ones yes sir right here in Blaine.”

I started farming the bay in the mid-1980s along with my then business partner Geoff Menzies, until the bay was closed in 1994 as a result of declining water quality. That’s when attention switched to a Herculean effort of tackling the water quality issues. Today they have been mostly solved and allow us to farm Drayton Golds once again. That is a whole other story covering twenty years of work and involving numerous folks, agencies, governments, and shellfish districts; all responding to the steady leadership and dedication of Geoff Menzies and the Puget Sound Restoration Fund.

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Graduate Student Explores Tourism Opportunities on Shellfish Farms

By Maria Vasta
University of Rhode Island



Maria Vasta visiting a farm in Narragansett Bay, owned by American Mussel Harvesters, Inc.

Maria Vasta is a graduate student working towards her Master's degree at the University of Rhode Island. For her thesis research, she is exploring tourism opportunities at shellfish farms on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of the U.S.

Historically, scientific literature examining farm tourism (or "agritourism") has focused exclusively on terrestrial farms. However, shellfish growers have begun to diversify their farming operations to incorporate new and exciting ways to integrate the public into the aquaculture industry.

Using data collected through online surveys administered to the Pacific and East Coast Shellfish Growers Associations, Maria hopes to characterize shellfish growers, their farms, and existing farm tourism activities. Which goals do growers believe are important motivators for developing tourism? What challenges prevent certain growers from offering tourism on their farms? Maria hopes that her research will not only help to address the gap in existing farm tourism literature, but also provide shellfish growers and coastal managers with insights into this emerging use of coastal waters.

If you are a shellfish grower (with or without tourism on your farm) and would like to participate in Maria's study, feel free to access and complete her survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/shellfishgrowers>

Shellfish Farming Fact or Fiction?

By Bobbi Hudson
Pacific Shellfish Institute Director

It likely won't be a surprise to readers of this newsletter, but citizen knowledge about shellfish farming is limited. When coastal residents were asked if they had ever seen a shellfish farm, 52% of survey respondents answered no, while another 4% said they simply didn't know.

Pacific Shellfish Institute (PSI) and partners at Washington State University's Social and Economic Sciences Research Center recently surveyed residents of 10 coastal counties across Washington, Oregon and California to explore two overarching questions: "Are these communities opposed to or supportive of continued or expanded shellfish aquaculture?" and, "What are the implications for aquaculture planning and development?"

The survey solicited 1,250 responses (34%) and generated fascinating data covering a wide range of issues. The survey revealed the general view that shellfish farms "neither enhance nor detract from the scenery of coastal areas" and their greatest benefits are

derived through: "providing locally produced seafood", "improving the local and state economy", and "relieving pressure on wild fisheries."

Opinion regarding shellfish farming is generally favorable, but survey responses point to the fact that the door



When coastal residents were asked if they had ever seen a shellfish farm, more than half said no, or they didn't know. Pictured: Little Skookum Shellfish Farm tidelands and uplands in southern Puget Sound. Photo by Bobbi Hudson.

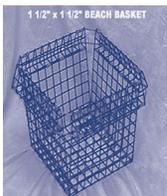
remains open for improved education surrounding both aquaculture practices and consumer seafood preferences.

If you would like to incorporate findings from this survey into your community outreach or marketing efforts, contact Bobbi Hudson at PSI (bobbi@pacshell.org or 360-754-2741). This work is funded through Washington Sea Grant, pursuant to NOAA award #NA14OAR4170078.

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Message from Washington Shellfish Policy Advisor

By Julie Horowitz
Washington Shellfish Policy Advisor

The shellfish industry is a foundation of Washington's economy, an indicator of the health of our nearshore habitats and water, and an intrinsic part of our state's heritage. Our shellfish are sought by consumers around the world and are a well-deserved source of pride for local growers. It's an industry I've heard the Governor tout time and again in speeches about our economy as well as our environment.

It's because of this nexus between the health of our economy and the health of our environment that Governor Inslee made the first stop on his climate tour at the Taylor Shellfish hatchery in Dabob Bay. The Governor saw firsthand how a shellfish hatchery copes with changing pH and discussed the impacts of ocean acidification with shellfish growers from Puget Sound and the coast. He heard about the changes and uncertainty growers face related to climate change and how those changes could result in job losses, especially in rural communities. He has carried this message as his climate tour has traveled across the state this summer.

In my new role as Shellfish Policy Advisor, I have had the chance to meet with shellfish growers on the coast and in Puget Sound learning about the

culture of the shellfish community – the passion and pride for the products grown in our waters and the generations of shellfish farmers who have built this local industry. I heard about the challenges of burrowing shrimp and non-native eelgrass in Willapa Bay. I learned about the evolution of shellfish farming methods and processing and the changing dynamics of estuaries like Grays Harbor. Puget Sound growers emphasized the importance of clean water and noted the impact of closures in Samish Bay, Henderson Inlet, Whatcom County and around the Sound. The challenges associated with permits and efforts to improve that process are also clearly important to many growers.

As I move forward in working with a broad range of stakeholders on developing the next phase of the Washington Shellfish Initiative, we will continue to address the challenges of improving water quality, supporting important research on shellfish aquaculture, advancing efforts to improve regulatory certainty, restoring native shellfish, and furthering efforts to understand and address ocean acidification. The Washington Shellfish Initiative highlights the importance of abundant shellfish resources and I look forward to working with you to ensure Washington continues growing a vibrant shellfish industry that works with and relies on a healthy ecosystem.

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State Evaluating a No Discharge Zone for Vessel Sewage in Puget Sound

By Amy Jankowiak
Washington Department of Ecology

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) has been working for more than two years on evaluating the appropriateness and feasibility of prohibiting black “water” sewage discharges from all vessels with a No Discharge Zone (NDZ) in parts or all of Puget Sound. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) establishes NDZs under the Federal Clean Water Act based on a state’s application. A NDZ is a priority item in the Puget Sound Partnership’s Action Agenda along with other pollution prevention measures aimed at repairing/replacing failing septic tanks, proper disposal of pet waste, and best management techniques for storm water.

Currently, federal law allows minimally treated vessel sewage from a Marine Sanitation Device (MSD) to be discharged anywhere within three miles of shore. Vessels beyond three miles can discharge without treatment. While the total amount of discharges from vessels is very small, MSDs typically do not meet standards for water quality and public health protection. Further, unlike stationary pollution sources, vessels move around, creating the risk from

discharges directly to or near sensitive water bodies.

Following the two-year advisory process which included extensive outreach to stakeholders, Ecology offered a draft petition for public comment in early 2014 proposing that all of the Puget Sound be an NDZ. Ecology received more than 26,000 comment e-mails or letters with all but about 530 in support of the proposal. Ecology is preparing a comment summary for inclusion on Ecology’s NDZ website along with the other prepared documents.

While there are clean water benefits to a NDZ, Ecology is taking seriously the concerns raised about the economic impacts to some industries affected by such a designation.

Approximately 250 commercial vessels and less than five percent of the roughly 150,000 recreational vessels in Puget Sound would have to retrofit their vessels to add holding tanks to comply with a NDZ. Ecology is also planning to use National Estuary Program grant funding to put in an additional two or three commercial pumpouts especially for use by tugs, commercial fishing vessels and small cruise ships.

Another area of analysis is better understanding the impacts of vessel sewage on water quality and shellfish, including the treatment of viruses and

the presence of higher levels of fecal coliform bacteria near marinas than in open waters. Ecology is undertaking additional economic and scientific studies to better understand and address the concerns raised by those for and those concerned about an NDZ.

Ecology continues to consider all of the options for a potential final petition to EPA for their consideration, including allowing more time (i.e. a phase-in period) for certain vessel types to perform complicated retrofitting and the considerations of the geographic extent of a NDZ. Ecology will continue to work with stakeholders and collaborate with partners to potentially advance a final petition for EPA’s consideration and decision as early as mid 2015.

“To date, the EPA has established more than 80 No Discharge Zones in 26 states, none in Washington.”

—Amy Jankowiak
WA Dept of Ecology



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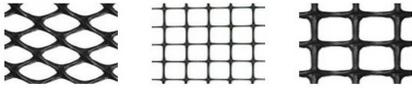
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2015 Oregon Aquaculture Advisory Group Launches

Recent years have seen global growth in aquaculture as demand rises and the availability of wild products stagnates. However, this growth has not been uniform. Oregon's aquaculture program remains modest; albeit with considerable un- and under-utilized resources. In an effort to expand this program, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has established an Aquaculture Advisory Group (Group). This Group, representing all stakeholders (e.g., farmers, processors, civil society groups and public agencies) has the mandate to advise the ODA

on the best ways to increase Oregon's aquaculture production to improve aquafarming's contribution to food supply, employment generation and economic growth.

The Group is currently engaged in a comprehensive review of the state's program, looking at opportunities and constraints to greater aquacultural production in Oregon. Part of this review will involve actively participating in a project entitled Developing Additional Investment in Oregon Aquaculture. The project is funded by the ODA, the USDA and several other partners from the public and private sectors.

Funds Available to Grower Members through the PCSGA Enrichment and Development Fund

What's on your plate this year? There may be funding to assist you and your business in getting it done. The PCSGA Enrichment and Development Fund is available to grower members for activities that will benefit their farms, their knowledge base, and/or the shellfish community at-large.

Opportunities for use may include (but are not limited to):

- Air or hotel fare for Walk the Hill
- Conference Fees
- Educational Fees
- Travel Expenses for trips to train other shellfish growers
- Travel Expenses for training opportunities

To apply for funding, submit a letter to the Board of Directors by sending an email to conniesmith@pcsga.org. State the amount requested and how funds would be used.



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Walk the Hill Feb 2-6, 2015

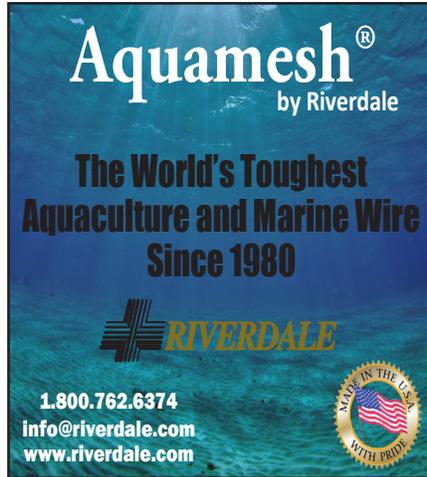
Every year PCSGA members fly to Washington, DC to talk to federal representatives and agencies about the issues most important to the shellfish industry. This week-long event, dubbed "Walk the Hill," is scheduled for the week of February 2nd, 2015.

You are invited to join the PCSGA for Walk the Hill. In-person visits from the farmers who work the tidelands is the strongest, most effective way to make shellfish industry concerns and interests known. Your presence has a far-reaching impact.

While this year's topics are still being decided, past examples have included the ISSC research budget, EU Trade, and maintaining the budgets for Ocean Acidification and the IOOS program.

The week will finish off with a Congressional Shellfish Caucus Reception. The Shellfish Caucus is a group of bipartisan Congressional members who are working to bring awareness to the issues and policies that affect the shellfish industry.

Funding assistance for the trip is available to PCSGA members through the PCSGA Enrichment and Development Fund. For more information on Walk the Hill, call the PCSGA at 360-754-2744.



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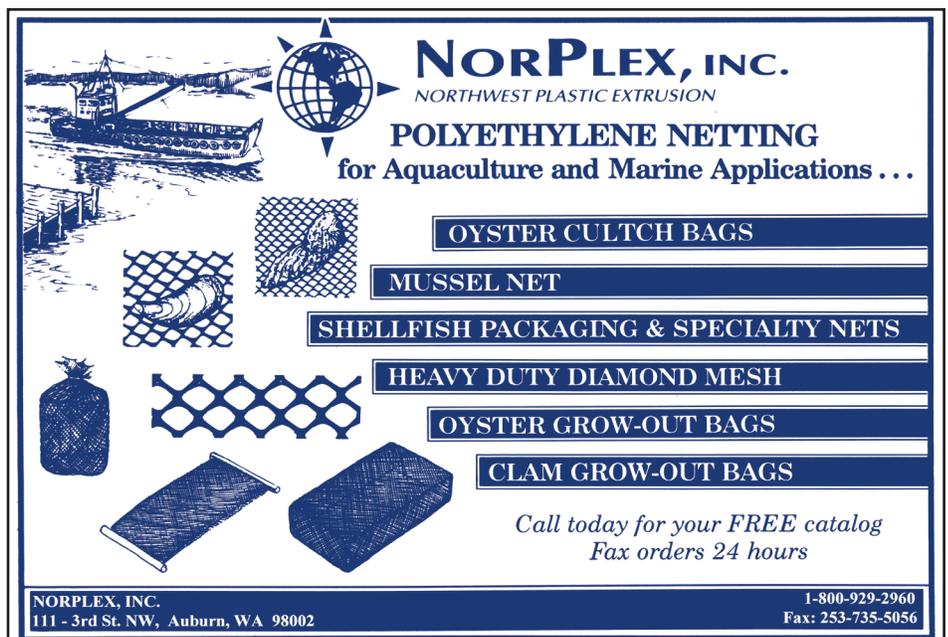


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Alaska Shellfish Growers Gather in Anchorage

Join shellfish growers at the 2014 annual meeting of the Alaska Shellfish Growers Association (ASGA) and Conference November 5-7 at the Springhill Suites in Anchorage. Highlights include discussions on Alaska's hatcheries, geoduck farming, Alaska Mariculture Initiative, and setting priorities for the coming year. A variety of speakers will be present, including representatives from state agencies, tribes, the Alaska Farm Service Agency, and PCSGA.

On November 6th, Ray LaRonde will lead the Alaska Marine Advisory Program Shellfish Technology Workshop which will include training for harvest and dealers and information on NOAA projects and current Sea Grant research. The conference will conclude on November 7th with a Mussel Workshop. For conference details visit www.alaskashellfish.org

WA Department of Fish & Wildlife Enforcement Activities

Unfortunately, bad actors intersect with the shellfish industry. The enforcement arm of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is working to protect the industry and its reputation. According to Deputy Chief Mike Cenci, the agency wrapped up several significant shellfish theft cases this month. Cenci tells PCSGA that one owner of a shellfish company is now being held in the King County Jail on \$250K bail for 17 counts of Trafficking in Stolen Property. WDFW Detectives identified the man as the alleged organizer of an estimated \$2 million shellfish theft ring operating on private and public tide lands in the Hood Canal area.

Another aquaculture business owner who has a geoduck harvest license received three months in jail and fines after pleading guilty to multiple felonies. The man is accused of stealing harvest equipment from two boats in Kitsap and Pierce Counties and poaching 300 pounds of wild geoduck from a closed area in Thurston County with the use of a 17' sport-fishing boat "borrowed" from another diver. According to Cenci, in order to avoid detection, the accused cut holes in the hull of the boat inside the cabin and ran his pump lines under the waterline while scuba diving for the clams.

If PCSGA members encounter something suspicious while out on the tides, please contact the PCSGA office or WDFW enforcement directly at 1-877-933-9847.



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Heidi Duncan representing Duncan & Associates Insurance Brokers invited attendees to spin the wheel at her tradeshow booth.



Charles Toombs describes the process for testing and marketing a kind of fast-growing seaweed as Brian Sheldon looks on at the OSU Food Innovation Center.



Eric Schlagenhauf (left) and Bill Taylor compete during the Shellfish Bivalvathon, an NSA-PCS fundraiser.

68th Annual Shellfish Growers' Conference: Week in Review

The 68th Annual Shellfish Grower's Conference and Tradeshow took place from September 22-25, 2014. Hosted by the PCSGA and the National Shellfish Association - Pacific Coast Section, the conference was an opportunity for growers, researchers, agency staff, industry partners, and students to explore new research findings, consider public policy issues facing the shellfish industry, and to share stories and learn from each others' experiences.

Evening activities like the Tradeshow Reception and a wildly popular Texas Hold'em Pub Crawl/ Poker Run provided room for laughter and networking. A silent auction raised thousands of dollars for NSA student scholarships and the PCSGA Enrichment and Development Fund. The conference was an all-around success. We hope you will join us next year in Hood River, Oregon, from September 20-24, 2015.

Thank you to the planning committee, sponsors, tradeshow exhibitors, guest speakers, volunteers, and shellfish and auction donors for your many contributions!



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2015

January
 13-14: PCSGA Board Meeting, Portland, OR
 27-29: Global Seafood Market Conference, Las Vegas, NV

February
 2-6: Walk the Hill, Washington DC
 9-11: Sea Web Summit, New Orleans, LA
 10: PCSGA Board Meeting via Conference Call
 19-22: Newport Seafood and Wine Festival, Newport, OR

October
 4-5: Oysterfest, Shelton, WA
 16: PCSGA Fall Beach Cleanup

November
 4: Election Day
 5: PCSGA Board Meeting via Conference Call
 5-7: ASGA Annual Meeting and Conference, Anchorage, AK

December
 Happy Holidays
 2: PCSGA Board Meeting via Conference Call

2014